

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are currently active.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 6.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Antecedent support for the amendments is found on page 5, lines 10 and 11.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5 and 7 as being unpatentable over Harris in view of Evans. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

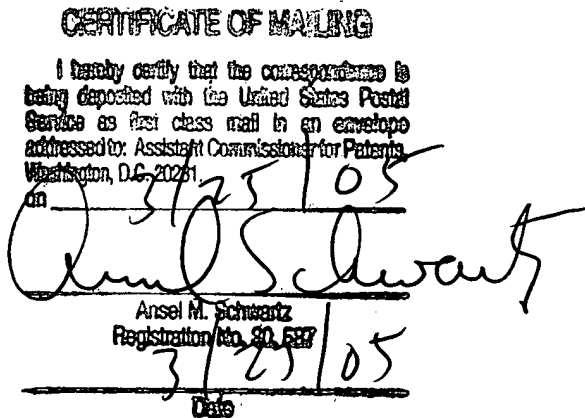
The Examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to cause the base of Harris to have walls to form an enclosed tray into which the mat fits as taught by Evans. Applicant respectfully strongly disagrees with this conclusion.

Harris teaches at one edge 24, 26 the receptacles may be closed as by a closure 28 that is secured to the base 16. See column 3, lines 20-24 of Harris. In other words, Harris is teaching to form a tray out of the base 16. However, Harris also clearly teaches that the

strips 12 each have a wall portion 18 secured to the base 16. See column 2, lines 62-64. Consequently, Harris teaches away from applicant's claimed invention which has a tray separate and apart from a grid.

Patent law is clear that the teachings of references cannot be taken out of the context in which they are found. The context of the teachings of Harris is that the base has a closure 28 with the strips fixed to the base. The teachings of Evans shows a mat that is separable from the tray, completely contrary to the teachings of Evans. Thus, one skilled in the art would not look to the teachings of Evans and the teachings of Harris to combine them to arrive at applicant's claimed invention because Harris teaches the base is secured to the strips, while Evans teaches the mat is separable from the tray. Accordingly, Claims 1-7 are patentable over the applied art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 1-7, now in this application be allowed.



Respectfully submitted,

JAMES R. SAGE, JR.

By Ansel M. Schwartz

Ansel M. Schwartz, Esquire

Reg. No. 30,587

One Sterling Plaza

201 N. Craig Street

Suite 304

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

(412) 621-9222

Attorney for Applicant